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Letter dated 10 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you a press release by the Government of Burundi regarding the measures taken by the Government to prepare the fair and transparent elections of 2015 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a working document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Communiqué of the Government of Burundi dated 8 June 2015

Following the Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community held on 31 May 2015in Dar es Salaam, and with a view to continuing preparations for free, calm, credible and transparent elections in 2015, the Government of the Republic of Burundi has the honour to inform the nation and the international community of the following.

As part of efforts to reduce tensions, the Government reiterates its firm commitment to the full implementation, in good faith, of the conditions agreed at the Summit.

The Government reminds those who called for violent demonstrations that they should comply with the obligation to cancel them of their own accord, as requested by the aforementioned Summit.

The Government agrees not to serve arrest warrants against the organizers of violent demonstrations.

Regarding the disarming of allegedly armed youth groups affiliated with political parties, the Government has the honour to announce that it has instructed the National Disarmament Commission to fully devote itself to recovering all weapons held illegally by the population, and advised it to submit a report within two weeks. For that goal to be achieved, the Government calls upon all political parties, without exception, all civil society organizations, civil servants and the people at large to contribute to this effort to ensure that the elections take place under the best possible conditions.

The Government reaffirms its commitment to a controlled electoral process. It is therefore committed to ensuring the safety of political leaders before, during and after the elections, and remains at their disposal regarding the technical arrangements needed to fulfil that commitment. Once their locations have been reported, security forces will be deployed to provide them with the safest possible surroundings.

With respect to the media, the Government welcomes the fact that the parties to the dialogue have already agreed that they should resume their operations during the election campaign. The Government is committed to the full and prompt implementation of this measure.

The Government has already sought to build trust among political partners by consulting opposition political parties for suggestions to replace two former members of the National Independent Electoral Commission. The Government hopes to receive the names of the new commissioners in the next few hours.

The Government welcomes the gradual and orderly return of refugees and is considering, as it has in the past, sending delegations to host countries to discuss arrangements for their voluntary return.

In this regard, the Government reiterates its request that countries and organizations hosting refugees should facilitate the repatriation of refugees wishing to return to Burundi.

Finally, the Government of the Republic of Burundi remains prepared to do whatever it takes to ensure that the 2015 elections take place under the best possible conditions.

Bujumbura, 8 June 2015
Philippe **Nzobonariba**
Secretary General and spokesman of the Government